MARVEL LEGACY THANOS WINS

18

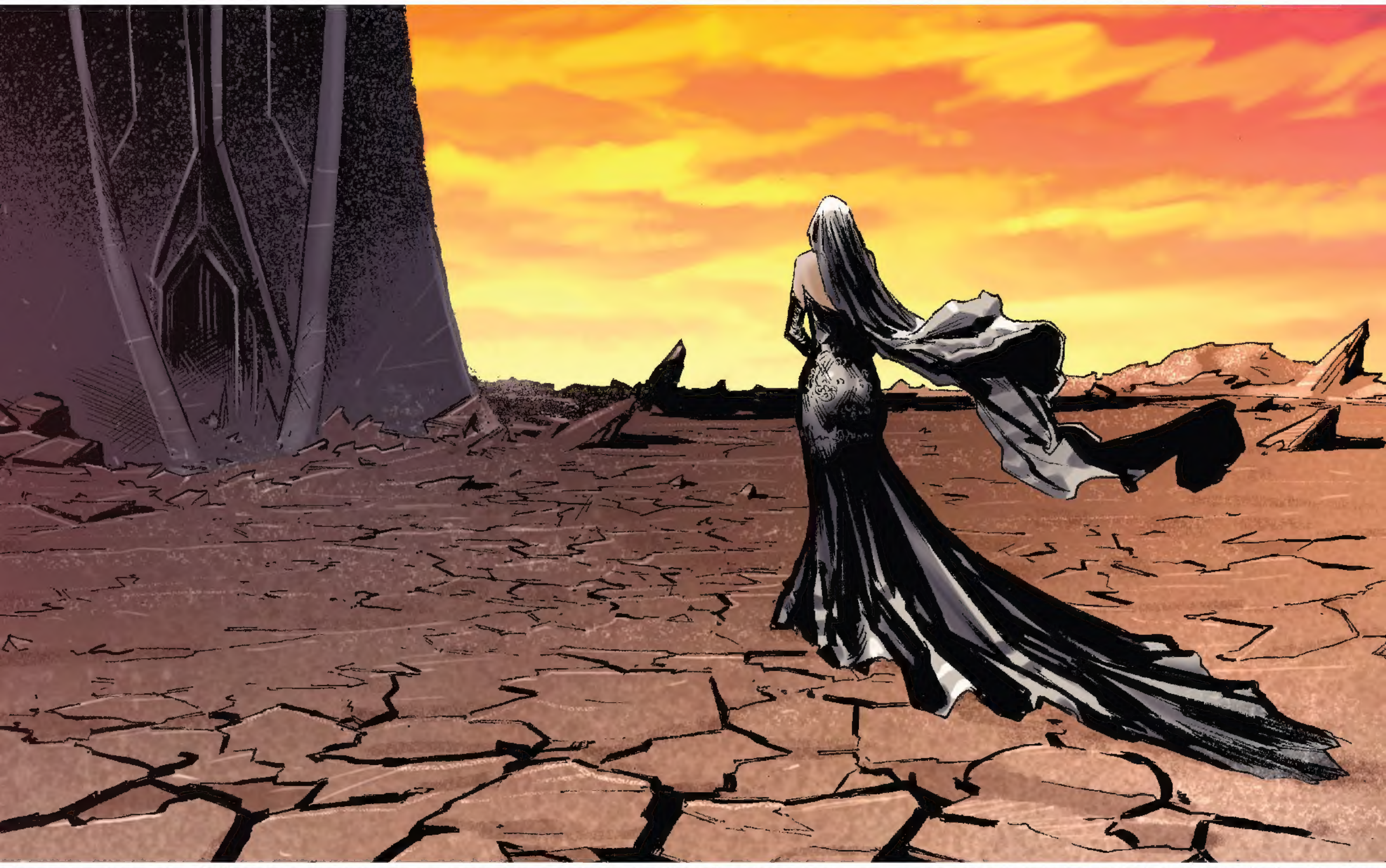
THANOS

CATES
SHAW
FABELA

PARENTAL ADVISORY

A total obsession with power drives him. . . to control the forces of the universe.
He is the Mad Titan. He is. . .

THANOS



Thanos has been dragged to the end of time and come face-to-face with himself. King Thanos demanded the help of his younger self in a bloody last gambit to win the love of Death.

Once the battle ended, the twin Titans reigned victorious...and Death finally arrived.

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THESE ARE THE FINAL DAYS OF THANOS.

YOU HAVE WITNESSED, IN THE TELLING OF THIS TALE, EVERY SINGLE MOMENT OF CONSEQUENCE IN THE MAD TITAN'S LIFE.

YOU HAVE SEEN THE CRUEL BIRTH, AND THE MERCIFUL DEATH, OF HIS FOOLISHLY BRAVE BLACK RIGHT HAND.

YOU HAVE SEEN HIS ASCENSION TO GODHOOD. HIS FINAL FOE BROUGHT LOW BY TWO PAIRS OF HIS OWN HANDS.

YOU HAVE SEEN ALL OF THIS, AND YOU HAVE SEEN THE EMPTINESS THAT IT HAS BROUGHT HIM.

BUT HERE, AT THE END OF EVERYTHING...

...IS SOMETHING YOU WILL NEVER SEE AGAIN.

A THANOS... AT PEACE.

MY LADY. YOU CAME...

INDEED SHE HAS...

BUT WHY HAS SHE STOPPED?

WHY DOES SHE NOT COME FURTHER?

WHAT MORE DOES SHE WANT?!

BOY! CAREFUL WHAT YOU--

NO!

THIS IS ENOUGH! NO MORE!

I GROW *TIRED* OF YOUR GAMES! I CAN ONLY IMAGINE HOW TIRED *HE* IS OF THEM.

WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT FROM ME?!

WHY WILL YOU NOT RELENT?! SPEAK TO ME!

I HAVE-- *WE* HAVE GIVEN YOU EVERYTHING THAT YOU WANTED! THERE IS NOTHING LEFT TO KILL!

WHAT MORE COULD YOU...

OH...

I HAVE TO KILL YOU.

THAT'S WHY YOU BROUGHT ME HERE.

IT WAS NEVER TO KILL THE SURFER, WAS IT?

YES.

AND IF THANOS MUST DIE?

YOU'VE GIVEN HER EVERYTHING ELSE IN CREATION, BUT THAT'S IT, ISN'T IT?

WE HAVE TO DIE TO BE WITH HER.

LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE.

NO ONE KILLS THANOS BUT THANOS.

I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'LL MAKE IT EASY.

WOULD YOU?

RIGHT. LET'S END THIS, THEN. I AM ANXIOUS TO BE DONE DOING YOUR CHORES FOR YOU.

BEFORE WE DO, I WANTED TO SAY...

...THE RIDER WAS MY COMPANION...BUT HE WAS SIMPLE. MEEK.

THOUGH YOU ARE...ABRASIVE, IT HAS BEEN...NICE TO FEEL THAT ANGER ONCE AGAIN.

THAT BOTTOMLESS PIT OF DESIRE, HATE, AND DRIVE THAT HAS BEEN DAMPENED IN ME OVER TIME.

IT HAS BEEN...GOOD TO NOT BE ALONE IN THESE FINAL DAYS.

IF I MAY GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE TO CARRY WITH YOU IN YOUR JOURNEY FROM THIS DAY TO THIS DAY.

IN MY TIME, I HAVE SEEN SUCH WONDROUS THINGS, THANOS. THINGS THAT, IN A WAY...

...I ENVY YOUR YOUNG EYES TO SEE FOR THE FIRST TIME.

I HAVE MADE MANY MISTAKES. BUT IF I HAVE LEARNED ONE THING IN MY TIME, IT IS TO NEVER--

AGH!

WWWAK

DO YOU WANT TO TALK OR DO YOU WANT TO *DIE?*

HEH... VERY WELL, THEN.

AND, OF COURSE, THIS IS HOW IT ENDS.

THE LAST OF THE TITANS FIGHTING FOR THE HAND OF DEATH AT THE DUSK OF TIME.

IT WAS NOT COLD, THE WAY THEIR BATTLE WITH **THE FALLEN ONE** WAS. NOT CLINICAL.

NO, THERE WAS SOMETHING MORE TO THIS FIGHT...

EACH THANOS TAKING A COMBINED ETERNITY OF PAIN AND SORROW OUT ON THEMSELVES. DEALING NOT IN WORDS OR FEELINGS, BUT IN THEIR SHARED LANGUAGE OF BLOOD.

EACH BLOW A PUNISHMENT FOR SOME HIDDEN REGRET THEY CARRIED INSIDE OF THEM.

FOR GIVING UP. FOR GIVING IN.

JEALOUSY OF STRENGTH. HATRED FOR WEAKNESS.

AND RAGE. RAGE FOR THE SADNESS AND DESPAIR THAT THEY WILL NEVER SPEAK.

RAGE THAT THEY BALL UP INSIDE THEIR FISTS AND THROW INTO ONE ANOTHER INSTEAD OF DARING TO SPEAK IT ALOUD.

EACH OF THEM ROARING AGAINST THE DAWNING CERTAINTY THAT WHAT THEY HATE THE MOST IN EACH OTHER...IS THAT THEY **ARE** EACH OTHER.

IT IS PERHAPS FITTING, ONE CONSIDERS, THAT THANOS CAN ONLY TRULY EXPRESS HIMSELF...

...WHILE KILLING HIMSELF.

GRAGHH!

KNOCK

BOOM BOOM

BOOOOMMM

BOOOM

HUH!

HAGH!

AGHHH!!

SINCE HE FIRST LAID EYES ON HIS FUTURE SELF, THANOS HAS THOUGHT OF LITTLE ELSE BUT THIS VERY MOMENT.

THIS WEAK, PATHETIC, OLD MAN, BEATEN AND SUPPLICANT BEFORE HIM.

WHAT *COUGH* WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?!

THE LOOK OF FEAR IN HIS EYES AS HE SEES THE ERROR IN BRINGING HIMSELF TO HIS WORLD.

FINISH THIS!

AND THE REALIZATION THAT HIS WOULD BE THE LAST FACE HE EVER SEES.

AND YET...

KILL ME!

...IF YOU WERE TO ASK THANOS TO TELL YOU HOW HE BELIEVES THE UNIVERSE WILL COME TO ITS INEVITABLE END...

KRAK

...HE WOULD TELL YOU THAT HE HONESTLY DOESN'T THINK MUCH ABOUT IT AT ALL.

BECAUSE THANOS KNOWS THAT WHATEVER IT IS, NO MATTER HOW EVERYTHING ENDS...

DO IT. END THIS.

...HE WILL BE THERE FOR IT.

THANOS, PLEASE!

AND WHEN IT COMES...

...HE WILL FACE IT ON HIS FEET.

WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

THANOS, COME BACK AND FINISH THIS!

PLEASE!

KINGS DO NOT BEG.

YOU...

YOU COWARD! YOU WEAKLING!

YOU'RE AFRAID! JUST A SCARED LITTLE BOY!

COME ON! COME ON, THEN!

COME AND FINISH WHAT YOU STAR--

BOOM

ENOUGH! YOU WILL NOT GOAD ME INTO DOING YOUR WORK FOR YOU, OLD MAN.

YOU WANT TO DIE?

DO IT YOURSELF.

SNAP

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! THAT GEM IS BROKEN, YOU FOOL! IT WILL NOT--

YOUR GHOST RIDER WAS ABLE TO CHARGE THE STONE, YES?

HMM, IF ONLY THERE WERE A HERALD HERE NOW...

THANOS... DO NOT DO THIS!

DO NOT LEAVE ME CRIPPLED AND BROKEN AND ALIVE!

YOU ARE ONLY DOOMING YOURSELF!

THIS IS YOUR FATE YOU ARE SEALING, BOY! THIS IS YOUR END!

VWAAAA

WE CANNOT DIE...

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?!

OH, YES.

BWAAHHH

IT MEANS THAT I HAVE ALL THE TIME I NEED.

I WILL NOT KILL YOU, OLD MAN.

BUT UNTIL I AM ASH AND BONE I WILL WORK WITHOUT END TO DENY YOU.

I WILL *NEVER* BECOME YOU.

I WILL *ERASE* YOU.

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER...

BWAAHHH

BWAAHHH

BWAAHHH

BOOM

A MOMENT PASSES...

AND ALL IS AS IT EVER WAS...

AND THEN, LAUGHTER.

HA! HAHAHA!

FOLLOWED BY A COLD WIND.

DON'T YOU SEE, MY LOVE! WE ARE STILL HERE!

THE BOY... HE DID NOTHING! I AM MEANT TO BE...

WE ARE MEANT TO BE...

AND WITH IT, THE END OF EVERYTHING.

...TOGETHER.

BECAUSE, YOU SEE...THE ANSWER TO OUR LITTLE RIDDLE IS SIMPLE.

MY LADY? WHY DO YOU LOOK SO...

"HOW WILL THIS MARVELOUS UNIVERSE OF OURS ARRIVE AT ITS **BLOODY AND INEVITABLE END?**"

OH... YOU... YOU AREN'T DRESSED FOR A WEDDING.

...ARE YOU?

HE'S DONE IT. HE'S ERASED ME.

MY LOVE...BEFORE I AM LOST, TELL ME. WHAT DID HE DO TO BE RID OF ME?

WHAT DID THANOS DO?

HE WON.

WHY, IT WILL END THE SAME WAY **EVERY STORY THAT HAS EVER BEEN TOLD** HAS ENDED...

WITH DEATH.

DEATH...

...AND NOTHING MORE.

THE END.

Hey there, True Believers! Donny Cates here.

Let me begin by thanking all of you for going on that insane ride with us. I think I'm supposed to be the one on the team who's like...good with words and stuff, but honestly, I am struck by a lack of ability to properly express how grateful we are to you for taking the chance on us, and for sticking with us month after month.

Now, with that out of the way... What the hell, man?! THANOS is ending? What's that all about?!

Well, if you'll calm down and stop yelling at me, I'll tell you! When Jordan D. White (who, ironically, I used to intern for!) called me and offered me THANOS, I was out-of-my-mind excited. I don't know if you can tell or not, but I'm KIND OF a big fan of that guy. I immediately said yes, and then spent about three days in a cosmic-fueled haze, plotting out the story you just read. I then turned in this insane document outlining every inch of THANOS WINS, and then...braced for impact.

See, here's the secret of what you just read: I honestly didn't think they'd let me do it. At all.

When I started writing my outline, I wanted to pitch the most insane, brazen, out-of-this-world story I could come up with. I wanted to blow the doors off of this thing. But not because I thought these ideas would end up on the page, but because I wanted to show Marvel the kind of thing I was attracted to. What I was capable of. I wrote the pitch KNOWING IN MY HEART that they would come back and say, "Hey, this is fun, but the Silver Surfer with Thor's hammer? Hulk as a dog? FRANK CASTLE IS WHAT NOW???" and then I'd have a fun laugh, and then go back and change a bunch of stuff to calm it down.

Now, I say that not because Marvel is some evil empire that hates fun, but because... well, who the hell was I to come in and do all this big stuff?! I thought surely they would tell me that there were other plans for this character, or that this beat was too hardcore and this and that and so on and etc.... Again, at the time I was just some shmuck with a cool indie book about big swords in Texas. No way they were gonna let me burn the universe down.

But then Jordan called me and said, "Hey this is all cool. Let's do it." And I was FLOORED. Wait, I thought, ALL of it? I can do ALL OF IT? I went from being incredibly excited to dumbfounded and terrified all within the span of a few minutes. But then something incredible happened.

Geoff Shaw, my *God Country* and *Buzzkill* partner in crime and best buddy, came onto the project. That was when I knew this thing might actually work.

Add in the incredible colors of Antonio Fabela, the killer lettering from Clayton Cowles and the steady hands of Jordan D. White and Annalise Bissa, and...damn. We had ourselves one fine-looking book. And then you all read it. And you liked it. And now we are here.

At the end of everything.

Why is that happening? Well, let me dispel some rumors. THANOS was NOT canceled. This end is part of a larger plan for the Mad Titan that will spill out as the months unfold.

I mean...you guys, come on. There's Infinity Gems in play right now in the Marvel Universe. And with a certain Mad Titan now on a quest to change the course of history...well...

If I were you, I would PAY ATTENTION TO INFINITY COUNTDOWN...

'Nuff said, amiright?

So yeah, this wasn't some evil plan. This wasn't dictated to us by some unseen evil hand. This was our call. Geoff and I have a new thing coming. Stay tuned. And Thanos... Well, he tends to win, right? I sure as hell wouldn't bet against him.

Also check out THANOS ANNUAL #1, coming soon, for clues as to the goings-on of a certain Cosmic Ghost Rider. After all...his story is just beginning. Even though...he died? Well, if history is any indication, death doesn't seem to slow Frank Castle down one bit.

And I promise, that series is JUST as bananas as this one has been. Maybe even more so!

Okay, folks. That's my time. Again, I can't thank you all enough for hanging out with us and enjoying the series as much as you have. I think I can speak for the whole team when I say it's been surreal and overwhelming and just... so much damn fun.

And hey, that's kind of the point, right?

Until next time.

Excelsior!

-Donny

Fan art by Cody Rankin

IN TWO WEEKS:

THANOS ANNUAL #1

...TAKES YOU ON A TOUR...

...OF THANOS' DARKEST DEEDS...

...FROM MARVEL'S MANY MASTERS.

ZONE